

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the courteous telephone interview granted by the examiner on January 22, 2004 to George H. Gerstman, counsel for Applicant. Pursuant to the interview, independent claims 1, 11 and 20 have been amended to more clearly distinguish the invention over the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of the application of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

As pointed out during the telephone interview, the present invention concerns a novel method for occluding the vasculature of a patient. To this end, an introducer is provided, having a detachment portion for holding and releasing an embolic coil. A plurality of embolic coils are provided having a proximal portion that is held by the detachment portion and having a distal portion. The proximal portion that is held by the detachment portion is relatively smooth and the distal portion has a relatively textured surface. The plurality of embolic coils are introduced into the patient's vasculature, using the introducer that is coupled to the smooth proximal portion. The textured surface provides improved platelet adhesion compared to a non-textured surface, to promote clotting.

Applicant's use of a relatively smooth proximal portion provides a controlled release when used with an introducer having a detachment mechanism. This is a significant, novel and unobvious feature.

Independent claims 1 and 11 claim applicant's method while independent claims 20 and 26 claim the embolic coil which has the proximal portion that is adapted to be held by a detachment portion of an introducer and has a distal portion, with the proximal portion being relatively smooth and the distal portion having a relatively textured

surface. When the embolic coil is implanted in a patient's vasculature, improved platelet adhesion is provided compared to a non-textured surface to promote clotting.

As pointed out during the interview, the invention as now claimed is not disclosed or taught by the combination of Diaz et al, Plowiecki and Jacobsen. Diaz, et al. discloses a type of introducer detachment portion for holding and releasing an embolic coil. However, the embolic coil disclosed in Diaz, et al. does not have a textured surface. Plowiecki refers to a helically wound coil having its surface treated to obtain roughness. Likewise, Jacobsen, et al. refers to an embolic device comprising a sequence of miniature beads having a surface that is preferably roughened or made porous. If one were to combine Plowiecki and/or Jacobsen with Diaz, et al, the result would be the Diaz introducer with an embolic coil that has a roughened surface throughout its entire length. This combination of references teaches away from embolic coils having a proximal portion and a distal portion, with the proximal portion that is held by the detachment portion of the introducer being relatively smooth while the distal portion is textured.

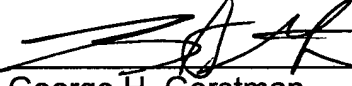
In accordance with the interview, the claims have been amended to bring out that the proximal portion of the embolic coil that is relatively smooth is the portion of the embolic coil that is held by the detachment portion of the introducer. As stated above and during the interview, this is not taught by the prior art references, whether taken singly or in combination with each other. In fact, the prior art references teach away from this invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If for some reason

the examiner does not believe the application is in condition for allowance, she is requested to telephone George H. Gerstman, counsel for Applicant, at 312-269-8567.

Respectfully submitted,

SEYFARTH SHAW LLP

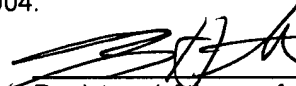


George H. Gerstman
Registration No. 22,419
Attorney for Applicant

SEYFARTH SHAW LLP
55 East Monroe Street, Suite 4200
Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 269-8567

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 26, 2004.



Registered Attorney for Applicant
Date: January 26, 2004